

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed June 4, 2004, has been carefully studied. Upon entry of the amendments presented above, the only claims remaining in the application would be allowed claims 12 and 17-19, and allowable claims 14-16 rewritten in independent form so as to place these claims also in condition for formal allowance, all consistent with what is stated in the final Action. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration, entry of the amendments presented above and early formal allowance.

As noted in the final Action and repeated above, claims 12 and 17-19 have been allowed, whereby applicant understands that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103.

Similarly, claims 14-16 were only objected to in the Final Action, i.e. not rejected on the basis of any prior art, and paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Final Action indicates that these claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form...". Accordingly, applicant understands that these claims also are deemed by the PTO to define novel and

unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103. Claims 14-16 have now been presented above in independent form whereby entry of the amendments presented above should place these claims in condition for formal allowance.

No other claims would remain in the present application upon entry of the amendments presented above, and therefore entry of the amendments presented above should place the present application in condition for formal allowance.

Claims 1-11 and 13 have been finally rejected on the basis of previously applied prior art. As these claims are proposed above to be deleted from the present application, applicant need not further address these rejections in the present application. For the record, however, the deletion of such claims from the present application is without prejudice to applicant's rights, including those rights provided by §§120 and 119, to proceed with those claims or other claims in a continuing application without any penalty whatsoever, if applicant chooses to do so.

Applicant believes that all issues have been addressed and resolved above, upon entry of amendments presented above. Wherefore, applicant again respectfully

Appln. No. 09/830,645
Amd. dated July 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2004

requests favorable consideration, entry of the amendments
presented above, and early formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheridan Neimark', written over a horizontal line.

Sheridan Neimark

Registration No. 20,520

Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
SN:ma G:\BN\O\Ohta\Fukada 1\PTO\amd 20AP04.doc